



**Subcommittee on National Security,  
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut  
Chairman

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**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

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**Congressman Christopher Shays to Convene October 7 Hearing on  
DOD Sales of Surplus Biological Lab Equipment and Protective Clothing**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing October 7<sup>th</sup> to examine weaknesses in Department of Defense (DOD) controls over surplus chemical and biological (CB) laboratory equipment and protective clothing.

The hearing will take place in room 2154, Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C. at 10 a.m., Monday, October 7.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) will testify regarding new findings about the lack of oversight by DOD in monitoring Internet sales of equipment that could be used in the production of chemical and biological weapons. According to GAO, due to poor controls, there is little assurance excess CB equipment has not already fallen into the wrong hands.

Shays said, "The cheap, virtually unregulated availability of low cost biological laboratory equipment poses a risk to national security. The Department of Defense should not be a discount shopping outlet for would-be bio-terrorists."

At the Subcommittee's request, GAO purchased a number of surplus items through a shell corporation, acquiring operating lab equipment and other items at less than one-tenth of the original acquisition cost to DOD. GAO was also able to purchase protective suits and other ensemble items, despite a January 2003 DOD policy prohibiting the public sale of such items.

Some protective suits purchased by GAO had previously been identified by DOD as defective. Those suits were still circulating in the surplus supply chain, with some issued to state and local law enforcement units.

# **Witness List**

## **PANEL ONE**

**Mr. Gregory Kutz**  
Director,  
Financial Management and Assurance Team  
U.S. General Accounting Office

accompanied by

**Ms. Gayle L. Fischer**  
Assistant Director,  
Financial Management and Assurance Team

**John J. Ryan**  
Assistant Director,  
Office of Special Investigations

**Keith Rhodes**  
Chief Technologist,  
Applied Research and Methods

**Mr. Shelton Young**  
Director,  
Readiness and Logistic Support Directorate  
Office of Inspector General  
Department of Defense

## **PANEL TWO**

**Mr. Alan F. Estevez**  
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Supply Chain Integration)  
Department of Defense

**MR. FREDERICK N. BAILLIE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
Distribution and Reutilization Policy  
Defense Logistics Agency

**COLONEL PATRICK E. O'DONNELL**  
COMMANDER,  
Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service  
Department of Defense